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News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Gwinnett County Public Library

As part of the library's Meet the Author Series, Karin Slaughter, bestselling author and library advocate, will have a book discussion and signing featuring her new book, *Unseen*, as a part of Barnes and Noble's Bookfair to benefit the Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) on Saturday, July 6th. Customers who specifically mention the library while checking out at the Peachtree Corners store can benefit the library with their purchases during store hours on this day. The book talk and signing will take place at 3 p.m.

Karin Slaughter is the New York Times and number one internationally bestselling author of twelve thrillers, including *Fallen*, *Broken*, *Undone*, *Fractured*, *Beyond Reach*, *Triptych*, and *Faithless*. She is a native of Georgia and a dedicated supporter of public libraries.

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Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) is the proud recipient of two awards that recognize an ongoing commitment to arts partnerships in Gwinnett County. From the Georgia Arts Network, GCPL was honored with the 2013 *StART Award* for outstanding achievements in the "Community Arts" field. From the Hudgens Center for the Arts, GCPL received a *Gwinnie Award* in grateful appreciation of GCPL's contribution to the Arts. Both awards highlight the contribution of the library within the local arts community as a place to connect audiences with artistic talent and related opportunities.

The StART Award acknowledges GCPL's annual *Fall Into The Arts* series, recognizing it as a program of "remarkable merit that has a recognizable impact" on the community. This annual series coordinates arts groups and

initiatives, highlighting what the community has to offer and making it available to all citizens by removing some of the barriers —lack of time, money, and transportation to name a few— that can prevent residents from attending and participating in humanities programs.

"Fall Into The Arts is a natural extension of the library's passion for connecting our community through programs that enrich, educate, and inspire people from all over the County," explains Gwinnett County Public Library Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam. "Everyone has encountered a work of art—whether it is literary, visual, or musical—that has made a profound impact on the way we see the world and ourselves. The library aims to be a part of this experience, which is both personal and communal, and at all levels immeasurably valuable."

During this year's Gwinnie Awards, Executive Director of the Hudgens Center for the Arts Teresa Osborn delivered a heartfelt tribute to the library for GCPL's work in advancing the arts in Gwinnett. GCPL was noted for both the recent Georgia Arts Network award and how the library showcases local artists in each branch throughout the year. In addition, the library has worked with the Hudgens to promote the work of participants in the library's Altered Books contest and Pulp Fashion exhibit. Relationships like that of the Hudgens and the library continue to be "a valuable partnership that makes us all stronger."

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Gwinnett County Public Library invited area artists to turn their old books into a work of art. Participants submitted an "Altered Book" entry to any of the county's fifteen branches throughout the month of April.

Free workshops to introduce altered book art techniques were jointly sponsored by the library and the Hudgens Center for the Arts, held at the Hudgens Center on Saturday, March 9th. Two sessions were offered, one for youth, (grades 6 through 12) and one for adults, (ages 18 and up).

Judging for the contest occurred in May, and select entries will be exhibited at the Hudgens Center for the Arts from June 8th through September 7th. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place on Friday, June 14th at 4 p.m.

Last year the Altered Books Contest received more than 40 entries, and the Gwinnett County Public Library's partnership with the Hudgens Center was awarded an Honorable Mention for Arts Partnership by Artworks! Gwinnett for their collaboration on the 2011 Altered Books contest and Pulp Fashion exhibit.

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Gwinnett families can now pay a free visit to Big Bird, the Fraggles, Wayland Flowers' Madame, and a host of other popular puppet characters by using a library card.

Thanks to a new partnership between the Center for Puppetry Arts and Georgia's Public Libraries, citizens with valid library cards can check out the center's new "Passport to Puppetry" at any participating public library in all 159 Georgia counties, including Gwinnett.

The "Passport to Puppetry" is valid for up to four free museum admissions—a potential savings of up to \$33 per family. Parties with children must include at least one adult. The museum provides educational fun with more than 350 puppets from around the world, highlighting the fact that every civilization on our planet has its own unique form of puppetry tradition.

"We strive to be accessible to anyone who

wishes to avail themselves of our programming and welcome this opportunity to partner with the Georgia Public Library Service," said Vincent Anthony, the Center's founding Executive Director. "Whether you're an elementary, high, or college student; parent, toddler, or senior citizen, we endeavor to provide access to many different activities thereby gaining a greater understanding of our shared cultural heritage. After a visit, we hope that you understand that puppetry is not just for kids: it's for everyone."

The museum at the Center for Puppetry Arts is open Tuesdays through Sundays with hours varying upon day and programming. In addition to four free admissions, the "Passport to Puppetry" also entitles library patrons to attend a performance at the Center and/or participate in a Create-a-Puppet Workshop at a 25 percent discount, when space is available. Complete details are at www.puppet.org/.

"This wonderful collaboration between the Center for Puppetry Arts and Georgia's public libraries brings an even greater dimension and value to our ever-growing list of services," said Dr. Lamar Veatch, Georgia's state librarian. "We are thrilled for our libraries to offer this entertaining educational opportunity to citizens in every corner of our state."

Visit www.puppet.org/museum/galibrarypassport.shtml or www.georgialibraries.org for full details on accessing, list of participating branches, and details on how to use the "Passport to Puppetry" or visit www.gwinnettpl.org for more information.

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Gwinnett's *Meet the Author Series* continued with *New York Times* bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, Robert Jordan's widow, and long-time editor Harriet McDougal. They celebrated the conclusion of Robert Jordan's epic fantasy series, *The Wheel of Time*, discussed a new book, *A Memory of Light* at the Norcross Cultural Arts Center.

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On behalf of Gwinnett County Public Library, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has selected Ivy Library, a division of The Ivy Group, to facilitate a comprehensive planning process for Gwinnett County Public Library.

"We are pleased anytime we can learn more about the community the library serves," said Nancy Stanbery-Kellam, executive director of GCPL. "The county provided this opportunity for relevant research and community dialog at an opportune time."

For GCPL, which serves the northeast suburbs of Metropolitan Atlanta, Ivy Library will analyze library and US Census data; benchmark performance against national peers; conduct a market segmentation and lifestyle analysis; survey board members, senior administration and staff; and assess technology and facilities. A community information gathering process will include executive interviews with opinion leaders, focus groups of patrons, and a telephone survey of area residents.

Partners Nancy Davis and Pam Fitzgerald will lead the project along with Ivy Library Consultants Catherine Alloway, Director of Schlow Centre Region Library (State College, Pa.); David Belanger, Director of Delaware County Library System (Media, Pa.); Darro Willey, Past Director of DeKalb County Library (Decatur, Ga.); Chris Ricci, Field Research Director of Ricci Telephone Research, Inc.; and Marc Futterman, President and CEO of CIVICTechnologies.

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Volunteers from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity/ Sorority Diamonds and Pearls appeared at the Gwinnett County Public Library to participate in the 5th Annual Black History Month Reading Relay throughout February. Library branches across the county took turns hosting Diamonds and Pearls volunteers.

Readers showcased stories that honor the many contributions and achievements of African-Americans, past and present, while promoting literacy in the community.

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New York Times bestselling author Stuart Woods returned to Gwinnett as part of his national tour to promote his newest novel *Unintended Consequences*. Fans were invited to attend a book discussion and signing April 9, 2013, at the Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville.

An amazingly prolific author, Stuart Woods has written dozens of compelling thrillers, juggling stand-alone novels with four successful series. His most popular protagonists are New York cop-turned-attorney Stone Barrington, introduced in 1991's *New York Dead*, and plucky Florida police chief Holly Barker, who debuted in 1998's *Orchid Beach*.

His pleasing mix of high-octane action, likable characters, and sly, subversive humor has made him a hit with millions of readers who have returned the favor by consistently propelling his books to the top of the bestseller lists. Mr. Woods won the *Edgar Award* for *Chiefs* in 1981 and the *Grand Prix de Littérature Policière* for *Imperfect Strangers* in 1995.

Meet the Author events are special opportunities hosted by the library for fans and avid readers to share in the experience of meeting prolific, bestselling, and/or award winning authors to enjoy meaningful discussions about their works and the publishing process.

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The Gwinnett County Public Library hosted its third annual Teen Summit on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Due to the recent Zombie Infestation, Teen Summit 2013 focused on getting teens the latest information on how to survive safely in today's world, including

learning important survival techniques in self-defense, first aid, public safety, and more!

For more information about ways to support the library and other library events, please visit

www.gwinnettpl.org, call 770-978-5154, text (770) 450- 5305 or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, or Google+